NOV 2 9 2004
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
JC32

IFW

PATENT
81940.0063

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

YAMAMOTO, et al.

Serial No: 10/683,688

Filed: October 9, 2003

For: Storage System That Is Connected To External Storage

Art Unit: 2818

Examiner: Not Assigned

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on
November 23, 2004
Date of Deposit
Shindale Ferguson
Name
November 23, 2004
Signature Date

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

1. ☒ The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application other than a continued prosecution application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).

2. ☐ The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* the period specified in §1.97(b), but *before* the mailing date of a final action under §1.113, or a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, whichever occurs first. A statement specified in §1.97(e) or a fee set forth in §1.17(p) is included. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).

§1.97(e) STATEMENT

I, the person signing below, state:

☐ that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in the attached communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that the communication is dated not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

OR

☐ that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in

§1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).

OR FEE

☐ Attached is a fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(c). ($180.00). **[OR:]** Please charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(c) ($180.00) to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this petition is enclosed.

3. ☐ The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* the period specified in §1.97(c), but before, or simultaneously with the payment of the issue fee. A statement specified in §1.97(e) and a fee set forth in §1.17(p) are included. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

§1.97(e) STATEMENT

I, the person signing below, state:

☐ that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in the attached communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that the communication is dated not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

OR

☐ that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).

AND FEE

☐ Attached is a fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(d). ($180.00).

4. ☒ If it should be determined that for any reason either an insufficient fee or an excessive has been paid, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment necessary to ensure consideration of the information disclosure statement for the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. **A copy of this petition is enclosed.**

5. ☒ A list of __3__ reference(s) is in the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

PATENT
81940.0063

NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE REFERENCES

☒ Enclosed is a search report for a counterpart application. The search report Examiner has provided comments on the relevancy of any non-English language references cited in the search report.

☐ The specification incorporates comments on the relevancy of Non-English language references.

☐ Set forth below are comments provided by the applicant's home country counsel on the relevancy of non-English language references:

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

By: _____
Lawrence J. McClure
Registration No. 44,228
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: November 23, 2004

Biltmore Tower
500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Telephone: (213) 337-6700
Facsimile: (213) 337-6701

PTO/SB/C32 EFS
NOV 2 9 2004
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)	Application Number
81940.0063	10/683,688
Applicant YAMAMOTO, et al.	
Filing Date October 9, 2003	**Group Art Unit** 2818

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,964,886	10/12/99	SLAUGHTER, et al.			
	5,644,783	07/01/97	KOCHIYA, et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation YES	Translation NO
	02/093298	11/21/02	WO			X	

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.